



State of the Community

Carlisle, Iowa

2004

Ruth Randleman, Mayor

Date: January 4, 2005

To: The Citizens of Carlisle, Iowa,

It is once again a pleasure for me to review the past year from the perspective of your local government. It has been a privilege to serve the citizens of Carlisle as mayor in 2004, and I would first like to express my gratitude to all the residents who have assisted elected officials and staff in making this past year successful.

Volunteer efforts had a tremendous impact in moving our community forward, and I have been extremely encouraged by the interest and commitment shown in many areas. One of the most notable is the new Aquatic Center at 1220 S. 5th. Thanks to dedicated contributions of time, money and in-kind services and materials, this project has stirred community spirit and will be something we will enjoy and be proud of for many years to come. The project also received a Vision Iowa grant of \$100,000 that will pay for the largest water feature - the red and gold "flume" slide. Thank you to all who stepped up to make the Carlisle Aquatic Center happen. I would also like to voice my appreciation to the Friends of the Library, the Library Board and the contributing citizens of Carlisle for a job well done on the "Buy A Square" remodeling project last year. I am looking forward to our citizens enjoying the added benefits these efforts will bring to the community. Many volunteers from all age groups gave of their time and talents, not only with the remodeling, but in all the moving and rearranging that's involved with this type of project. If you haven't already seen the improvements, "check it out" and visit often. I am appreciative that the work of so many saved taxpayer dollars and added to the quality of life in Carlisle.

Economic development is always a topic of interest as we look for growth and improvement. The city has taken advantage of opportunities to purchase land that are available through the Iowa Department of Transportation and has been soliciting proposals for increased tax base and/or services to the community on those parcels. The city has also been assisting Welch Products with a business expansion opportunity and plans and grant money are in place for extended infrastructure in 2005 as well. We also began work on a transportation master plan that will identify future traffic and pedestrian needs. Rezoning has been accomplished for added commercial development along Hwy. 5 at the Scotch Ridge Road intersection.

I believe economic development is crucial to the future of Carlisle, and we will be trying to encourage and facilitate it as much as possible. In order to keep up with the cost of city services, our very genuine commitment is to diligently pursue the expansion of tax base by new business development rather than an increase in property tax rates. An attractive community with quality of life amenities is a 'natural choice' for economic development.

Residential growth is a concern of any community, and Carlisle will see one of the first conservation based design subdivisions in the state. As we embrace "Carlisle, the Natural Choice" as our theme, efforts have also been directed toward plans for development of the transportation corridor along the bypass. Growing Green Communities, an area wide planning group, has conducted educational sessions and workshops on conservation design and low impact development. We as a community need to be strongly committed to embracing our unique image that will become our brand for the future. We are also participating in regional work on trails and public facilities plans that will be of tremendous benefit to our community. Local developers have also expanded their projects so that residents can be proud of the diversity in housing that Carlisle will have to offer.

A number of additional items of interest come to mind that enhance our community.

- The city has a new web site at www.carlisle-ia.gov that will help the citizens and those with an interest in Carlisle keep better informed.
- A new officer has been added to our police department in the form of a canine for drug enforcement
- A wetland committee was appointed by the city for work on developing a wetlands project and environmental education center. This is an exciting project that will have a regional impact.
- Education was provided to area property owners regarding issues with rental agreements.

As always, the Carlisle Community School District functions as a major part of our community and a great deal was done in the area of facilities this past year. As a city we commend them for their efforts and take pride in their growth.

I believe the next few years will be of enormous importance in determining the future direction of Carlisle. We are seeing interest in development and a progressive spirit in the community, and I am encouraged and excited to be a part of the great things that will be happening. There will be a lot of hard work to do to see the vision for this community become reality.

Each year I am inspired by the efforts of our local developers, business people and citizens. This past year has seen community involvement at a very high level and I am looking forward to the great things that will be accomplished in 2005. If you wish to participate in attempts to aggressively move Carlisle forward, please contact a local committee, board or organization, or talk to me about ways to become involved. Our community spirit and image are enhanced by events such as the “Garden Party”, 4th of July and “Light Up Carlisle”. Members of these committees offer many selfless hours and many talents to the benefit of everyone.

A final word I would like to add is in appreciation for our dedicated city staff. It’s a real motivation for me to work with people who truly have the welfare of our citizens at heart. I have learned a great deal from so many of them, and watched them put in time and effort well beyond their obligations. The volunteers that provide fire and rescue and our police officers are to be commended for the many calls they attended to and the lives and property they protected this past year. Thanks to all the departments that provide city services – your extra efforts did not go unnoticed in 2004.

Best wishes to each of you in 2005. Please contact me or council members with your ideas or concerns. You can do this by visiting our new web site at www.carlisle-ia.gov, by phone, or by attending the Mayor’s Coffee the first Friday of each month from 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM at Moe’s Joe, 155 N. First.

We remain committed to your service,

Ruth Randleman

Mayor, City of Carlisle